

BOOK NOTICES

THE list of books received may be supplemented by fuller reviews of such books as in the opinion of the editor are of especial value to the nursing profession.

MATERNITY; INFANCY; CHILDHOOD. By John M. Keating, M.D. Published by J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia.

THE NURSING AND CARE OF THE NERVOUS AND THE INSANE. By Charles K. Mills, M.D. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia.

ANOMALIES OF REFRACTION, AND OF THE MUSCLES OF THE EYE. By Flavel B. Tiffany, M.D. Hudson Kimberly Publishing Co., Kansas City, Missouri.

A TEXT-BOOK FOR TRAINING-SCHOOLS FOR NURSES. By P. M. Wise, M.D. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

This work is prepared with especial reference to the training of nurses in insane hospitals.

TEXT-BOOK OF MATERIA MEDICA FOR NURSES. By Lavinia L. Dock. Third edition. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

In this edition the metric system of dosage has been added and new drugs are given.

NURSING ETHICS. By Isabel Hampton Robb. Published by J. B. Savage, Cleveland, Ohio.

A new book by Mrs. Robb, which will be read with interest by nurses all over the world.

POCKET MEDICAL DICTIONARY. By George M. Gould, A.M., M.D. Fourth edition. Published by P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia.

The fourth revised edition of Gould's "Pocket Medical Dictionary" has increased the volume to thirty thousand words. For nurses it is indispensable, being small, compact, and concise, a great convenience tucked in a corner of one's travelling-bag. The especial change since the third edition is the addition of a "Table of Clinical Eponymic Terms."

It is a very great comfort to know there is such an easy way of extricating herself from the depths of ignorance when the unhappy nurse encounters "Oberchewsky's disease," "Fuerbringer's sign," and various other more or less euphonious terms of like nature.

OBSTETRIC AND GYNÆCOLOGIC NURSING. By Edward P. Davis, A.M., M.D. Saunders & Co., publishers, Philadelphia.

This hand-book for nurses is one of the best of its kind we have seen, containing something over forty chapters of practical instruction. It is well illustrated, and the divisions of chapters and subjects are in excellent shape for the student nurse. Dr. Davis in his introduction speaks of a "thorough knowledge and drill in asepsis and antisepsis as being indispensable," and in the chapter upon puerperal sepsis makes this statement, which cannot be reiterated too often, "*the nurse should consider each pregnant and parturient patient as a surgical patient, and, as far as antiseptic precautions are concerned, an abortion or labor must be treated as a surgical operation.*" Viewed from this stand-point, the question naturally arises as to whether a school has either moral or educational right to give nurses obstetric training before they have had operating-room drill.

Besides the excellent chapters upon surgical apparatus, sterilization, and the preparation of dressings, sutures, room, and patient, there is much practical instruction upon the make-shifts of obstetric and surgical work in private houses, and last, but not least, timely suggestions upon a dignified demeanor in the confinement- and operating-rooms.

Every hospital, like every household, is necessarily more or less of a law unto itself, but the principles must be the same in all. A well-known obstetrician recently said that "Given a nurse and a doctor who thoroughly understand aseptic principles, the patient may be safely delivered on the door-mat."

As nurses we may be thought presuming to question any statement made by a medical author, but in Chapter IV., page 46, Dr. Davis says: "The first stage of labor extends from the first regular contractions of the uterus to the time when the membranes rupture and the greater part of the amniotic fluid escapes. During the first stage the neck and mouth of the womb gradually dilate or open." Other authorities agree in saying that the first stage of labor is "dilatation of os or cervix, beginning with the onset of labor and ending with complete expansion," without necessary relation to the rupture of membranes.

The only writer we could find who agreed with Dr. Davis was Clara Weeks in her hand-book of nursing, an authority not likely to be recognized by him.

